

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

ENDANGERED SPECIES PERMIT INFORMATION

As provided for in §29.1-412, and §29.1-417 of the Code of Virginia, pursuant to §29.1-568, the Endangered Species Permit shall authorize the holder to take, export, transport, or possess any fish or wildlife which is listed by the provisions of §29.1, Article 6, of the Code of Virginia, for the zoological, educational, or scientific purposes and for propagation of such fish or wildlife in captivity for preservation purposes.

"Take" (or "collection") means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, possess or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct" (4 VAC 15-20-140, §8). For example, such activities include netting fish, taking measurements, and then returning them to the sample waterbody; or picking up aquatic mollusks by hand, taking measurements, then returning them to the collection location. Any activity which permanently removes individuals from the wild is also included under this permit.

1. **Application:** Application for a permit and application fee (payable to *Treasurer of Virginia*) shall be submitted to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, FWIS Section, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23230-1104. The applicant shall provide the requested information on application forms provided by the Department and is strongly encouraged to submit copies of relevant study plans or project proposals. The application packet should also include a risk assessment; guidelines are presented below. Any requested changes in the authorized permit conditions must be reported immediately to the Department so that the permit can be amended.
2. **Term of Permit:** Permits issued under the provisions of this section shall be issued on a calendar year basis (January 1 through December 31, inclusive). All permits issued during that time, regardless of issuance date, will expire December 31.
3. **Renewal:** It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to initiate any and all renewals.
4. **Revocation:** The Department may revoke or suspend a permit for failure to comply with provisions of a permit, or failure to comply with the permit conditions. Any person whose permit is revoked or suspended, may request a hearing before the Department to show cause why his/her permit should not be revoked or suspended (§29.1-412, 4 VAC 15-290-130).
5. **Collection Locations:** A collection permit is required for scientific collection activities ANYWHERE in the Commonwealth. Specific landowner permission should also be obtained, as appropriate.
6. **Guidelines for Preparing a Risk Assessment:** The purpose of a risk assessment is to evaluate the risk and /or benefit of the proposed action to a species, group of species, or population. The risk assessment should identify the need for the actions and address all potential impacts to the species. Of primary concern is the justification of how the data collected and actions taken will benefit the organisms in question and/or their habitat.
 - A. **Purpose:** should include a discussion of the proposed project goals and objectives, merits of the proposed project, consequences of the proposed action (direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the species and associated habitat), and consequences if the proposed actions are not undertaken.
 - B. **Review of Existing Information:** should include a thorough literature review related to the proposed study of the endangered or threatened species and pertinent literature of closely related species.
 - C. **Relationship to Recovery Plan:** should include a discussion of the relevant sections of the species recovery plan and identify the relation of the proposed action to the data needs and management

recommendations identified in the recovery plan.

- D. **Location of Study:** should include a thorough description of where the study will be conducted, the site's relation to known populations or the species, and a map clearly delineating the study area.
 - E. **Materials and Methods:** should identify the methods and techniques to be used to accomplish each activity; equipment to be used; time of year of sampling; duration of study; indication of whether or not loss of individual is anticipated, and, if so, what actions will be taken to address the loss and what impact will the loss have on the population or species. This section also should thoroughly address the use of chemicals, marks, maiming, or habitat disruption.
 - F. **Expected Results:** should include a description of the expected beneficial results to the species, its associated habitat, and its management.
 - G. **Alternative Actions:** should address alternative activities to achieve the stated goals and objectives.
 - H. **Bibliography:** should summarize the literature cited and other readily available information justifying the proposed actions.
7. **Record Keeping:** Permittee shall maintain a list of all species, whether released or kept, and numbers collected for each individual sampling event (specific location and specific day).
8. **Annual Report Requirement:** An annual report containing the information, required by section 7 above, shall be submitted on forms provided by the Department by January 31. Failure to submit the annual report will preclude the Department from renewing permit.
9. **Additional Permits:** This permit does not absolve the permittee of any responsibilities or conditions of any other local, state, or federal laws and regulations, including those that apply to threatened or endangered species. Additional permits may be required by other agencies or organizations. Individuals wishing to collect federally listed endangered or threatened species should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region V Office, Hadley, Massachusetts.

FEDERAL PERMITS:

If you are conducting research or salvage activities for federally listed species that require federal permits, you MUST provide a copy of the appropriate permits with your application.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

Application for Virginia Endangered/Threatened Species Permit

(Under Authority of § 29.1-412, § 29.1-417, § 29.1-568 of the Code of Virginia)

Fee: \$20.00

Name of Principal Applicant _____

Affiliation _____

Address:

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Daytime Telephone () _____

Purpose for which specimens are to be collected, held, or transported: (Provide as much detail as possible, attaching additional sheets as necessary, or reference attached study plans/project proposals):

Specific manner of collection (if applicable; see attached pamphlet for accepted collection techniques): _____

How will specimens be disposed (see attached pamphlet for suggested Virginia repositories)? _____

Date on which collection is to commence: _____ terminate: _____
(or held, transported, or exhibited)

Location(s) where collections to be made or species displayed (be as specific as possible or attach map(s) with area(s) highlighted)
County (s) and/or Stream (s) should be noted:

(over)

Make check payable to: **Treasurer of Virginia**, and return with completed application to:
FWIS Coordinator, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230-1104

*****For Department Use Only*****

_____ Approved, with standard conditions

_____ Denied

_____ Approved, with special conditions:
